

Boil Water Advisory Tips for Healthcare, Restaurants & Daycare Facilities

During a Boil Water Advisory

Do not serve or consume:

- Water that has not been disinfected
- Ice or drinks made with water that has not been disinfected
- Raw foods rinsed with water that has not been disinfected

For ice usage:

- Discard ice made prior to the boil water advisory and discontinue making ice (ice may be used for non-consumable functions)

For drinking water, use:

- Commercially-bottled water
- Water that has been disinfected by boiling at a rolling boil for over 1 minute and allowed to cool (shake in a clean, closed container or add a pinch of salt to remove flat taste)
- Water hauled from an approved public water supplies in a covered sanitized container
- Water from a licensed drinking water hauler truck
- Do not use water fountains, place clearly labeled signs on each fountain

For cooking and food preparation:

- Discard any ready-to-eat food prepared with water prior to the discovery of the water contamination
- Prepare/cook ready-to-eat food using drinking water alternatives listed above
- Clean and sanitize equipment/utensils/tableware using drinking water alternatives or use disposable options
- Dishwashing machines that have a dry cycle or a final rise that exceeds 113F for 20 minutes, 112F for 5 minutes or 162 F for 1 minute may be used
- Only use drinking water alternatives to percolate coffee

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For handwashing:

- Use drinking water alternatives and soap and follow handwashing procedures
- Or use alcohol based hand sanitizer

Note: Not all pathogens are killed with alcohol based hand sanitizers

For personal hygiene:

- Tap water may be used for bathing/showering by healthy adults in short durations being careful not to drink the water
- For infants, young children, people with open wounds or people with a weakened immune system; use drinking water alternatives for bathing
- Only use drinking water alternatives to brush teeth and clean dentures
- Use drinking water alternatives for wound care

For equipment:

- Use drinking water alternatives for humidifiers and other medical equipment
- Discontinue service of equipment with water line connections
- Do not use any equipment that connects to the plumbing system

For toys:

- Children's toy should be disinfected using a drinking water alternative or using a dishwashing machine that has a dry cycle or a final rise that exceeds 113F for 20 minutes, 112F for 5 minutes or 162 F for 1 minute may be used

When a Boil Water Advisory is Cancelled

- Flush pipes and faucets by running cold water faucets continuously for at least 5 minutes
- Flush water coolers by running coolers with direct water connections for at least 5 minutes
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle
- Drain and refill hot water heaters set below 113F
- Change all point-of-entry and point-of-use water filters, including those associated with equipment that uses water.